

What is a Sanitary Survey?

The EPA requires that public water systems receive sanitary surveys to make sure that the system can provide adequate, safe drinking water. EPA provides extensive guidance on what goes into this sanitary survey. Sanitary surveys are carried out to evaluate:

- (1) the capability of a drinking water system to consistently and reliably deliver an adequate quality and quantity of safe drinking water to the consumer, and
- (2) the system's compliance with federal drinking water regulations.

Here is a summary of that guidance. This is a useful tool for new operators or managers. If you are new to the business, and are trying to learn what is considered a successful public water system, this will help. A system that can successfully address every question is one that is doing very well. Alternatively, it may help you identify areas that could use some work.

This is also a useful tool for drinking water consumers. If you have ever wondered how TCEQ evaluates whether a public water system is doing a good job – this will help you answer that question. If your public water system can undergo a sanitary survey successfully, they are doing a good job for you.

The guidance outlines the following elements as integral components of a sanitary survey:

- Source (Protection, Physical Components and Condition)
- Treatment
- Distribution System
- Finished Water Storage
- Pumps/Pump Facilities and Controls
- Monitoring/Reporting/Data Verification
- Water System Management/Operations
- Operator Compliance with State Requirements.

To download the summary in pdf:

LINK TO 30 page summary

You can get EPA's original guidance document at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/pdf/sansurv/sansurv.pdf>

At TCEQ, the Regional staff perform Comprehensive Compliance Investigations to meet the TCEQ's sanitary survey requirements. You can learn more about this process by contacting your Regional office <<<LINK OUT TO REGION>>>